



Community & Residential Services Authority

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Michele Carmichael	Seth Harkins	Julianna Harms	Merlin Lehman
Gary Seelbach	Maureen Haugh-Stover	Julie Stremlau	

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Toni Hoy	Renée Mehlinger
Brittany Stern			

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Delgado	David Elder	Susan Fonfa	Candice Jones
Dee Ann Ryan	Randy Staton		

STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Nancy Aguirre	Mindy Miller	Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel
Debbi Smith			

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

Kevin Rubenstein, IAASE

GUESTS

Alan Dietrich (<i>Ex-Officio</i>)	Mary Pat Hartung	Ruth Giles-Ott	Uli Senz
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members, CRSA staff and guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 9, 2015 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the April 9, 2015 Authority meeting.

MOTION: *Kathy Briseno moved and Seth Harkins seconded that the minutes of the April 9, 2015 Authority meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- **Staff Activity Reports** for April and May, 2015. CRSA staff updated the Authority on the progress of two cases for which CRSA Technical Assistance Conferences were conducted on May 13, 2015. Director Schornagel reported that the Southern Illinois case has been resolved when the family was recently awarded an Individual Care Grant. Regional Coordinator Linda Prewitt updated the Authority on the current status of the Northern Illinois case noting that member agencies are still reviewing the case internally and that the case residential funding dispute remains unresolved. Director Schornagel notified the Authority that CRSA staff is preparing to convene an Authority Hearing in the Northern Illinois case in conjunction with the scheduled August CRSA Meeting. He reminded Board Members that Authority Hearing packets would be sent in the mail two weeks before the scheduled Hearing. He also informed members that in accordance with CRSA Dispute Resolution Guidelines: Authority Hearings involve testimony from the Child and Family Team to the Authority; involve all CRSA Board Members; are closed, face-to-face only proceedings and are recorded in accordance with the Verbatim Records and Open Meeting Acts. He added that if the dispute is resolved before August 31, 2015, he will cancel the Hearing and immediately notify the Board.
- **Current status of HB 4096. "ICG Bill"**
Director Schornagel updated the Executive Committee on the progress HB: 4096 (the ICG Bill), which the Authority has been tracking. He informed the Authority that HB:4096 has passed both houses but was substantially revised in late May by Senate Amendments 1 and 2 as it went through Senate Committee. He commented that this bill now moves the ICG program from DHS/DMH to HFS in its entirety and makes the ICG inoperative (except for existing ICG recipients) for the first calendar year of the N.B. lawsuit remedies. He also informed the Authority that there is still no apparent N.B. Consent Decree.

Director Schornagel updated the Authority on CRSA membership changes. He announced that Lisa Hampton, with Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) has left IDJJ and for the moment CRSA does not have a Director Designee from IDJJ. He also informed the Authority that Mary Spriggs-Ploessl with the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DHS/DDD) has notified him by e-mail that Joseph Turner is currently being considered by Acting DHS/DDD Director Greg Fenton to replace Ms. Spriggs-Ploessl as the primary Designee from DHS/DDD to the CRSA Board. He was also informed that Maureen Haugh-Stover will remain the Alternate Designee from DHS/DDD. Director Schornagel commented that Mary Spriggs-Ploessl has served as the primary designee from DHS/DDD for nearly two years. He thanked Mary in her absence for her active participation on the CRSA Procedural Guidelines Committee and her active involvement in resolving numerous case disputes involving her agency.

Director Schornagel took a moment to remind the Authority that Alan Dietrich has been a CRSA Board member representing DHS/DMH for nearly sixteen years, initially as an Alternate Designee from DMH beginning FY 00 and then as the sole DHS designee from DMH. He added that during that time Alan has distinguished himself on the Authority through his continuous membership on the Executive Committee and through active participation on 13 CRSA Ad Hoc Committees. He noted Alan's service as a CRSA Officer for six of his ten years at CRSA, serving as Secretary to the Authority in FY 06, FY 07, FY 11 and FY 12 and as CRSA Chairperson during FY 10 and FY 11. He commented that Alan is only the second Agency Designee in the 30-year history of the Authority to have served in the role of CRSA Chairperson. He added that Alan's Chairmanship of the Authority earned him the status of being an 'Ex Officio' CRSA Board member for life. Director Schornagel went on to say that agency representatives from the member agencies on the CRSA, particularly DMH, have had to develop a thick skin as CRSA has always been openly and publicly critical of the limitations and restrictions of the ICG program and in recent years about the rapidly diminishing mental health service system at the community level. He thanked Alan for never having taken the criticisms personally. The Authority gave a big round of applause to Alan for his commitment to CRSA and the children/families it serves.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Michele Carmichael from ISBE informed the Authority that the newly appointed State Superintendent, Tony Smith, wishes to express his pleasure in being a member of the Authority. She conveyed Superintendent Smith's belief in a full continuum of educational services but also his commitment to education in the Least Restrictive Environment. Bob Bloom cautioned that blurring the distinctions between regular education and special education has been used in the past to phase out several important special education programs, like autism, and as a justification to redirect the funding to bail out failed schools.

Dr. Renée Mehlinger from DHS/DMH thanked Alan Dietrich for his years of service to DMH and wished him well on his retirement. She then announced that she will be retiring as well from DHS/DMH on July 9th of this year. She informed the Authority that Lisa Betz has temporally been appointed as the DMH Alternate Designee to the CRSA while Dr. Binion seeks a child and adolescent psychiatrist within DMH to fill the role as Primary Designee.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. CRSA FY 16 Meeting Schedule

The Authority reviewed the proposed FY16 CRSA Meeting Schedule for regularly scheduled CRSA Meetings as well as for tentatively scheduled (off month) meetings.

MOTION: *Merlin Lehman moved and Kathy Briseno seconded that the Authority adopt the proposed FY 16 CRSA meeting schedule. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. Election of FY 16 Officers

Chairperson Seelbach, on behalf of the FY 15 CRSA Nominating Committee, offered the following slate of officers for consideration: Randy Staton as Chairperson; Seth Harkins as Vice Chairperson and Toni Hoy as Secretary. He opened the floor to nominations. Hearing none:

MOTION: *Kathy Briseno moved and Julie Stremlau seconded that the proposed slate of CRSA officers for FY 16 be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Chairperson Seelbach thanked fellow Nominating Committee members Kathy Briseno, Alan Dietrich, and Dee Ann Ryan for their work on the Committee.

C. Executive Committee Caucuses

Caucuses were held to determine appointments to the Executive Committee for FY 16. The following members were appointed to represent their constituencies on the CRSA Executive Committee:

Legislative Appointees: Kathy Briseno was appointed as primary representative to the Executive Committee and David Elder was appointed as alternate.

Gubernatorial Appointees: Robert Bloom was appointed to be primary representative to the Executive Committee and Gary Seelbach was appointed as alternate.

Agency Appointees: Michele Carmichael and Maureen Haugh-Stover were appointed as primary representatives to the Executive Committee and Julie Stremlau was appointed as alternate.

D. Appointment of a Staff Evaluation Committee

Chairperson Seelbach reported to the Authority that a Staff Evaluation Committee needs to be appointed to complete a performance appraisal of Director Schornagel. He commented that he will ask for volunteers to participate on the Staff Evaluation Committee but will defer appointment of the Committee until the August Authority meeting, at which time the incoming CRSA Chairperson, Randy Staton will be seated. Gary Seelbach, Kathy Briseno and Juliana Harms volunteered to serve on the Staff Evaluation Committee along with Committee Chairperson Randy Staton.

E. Other

None

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Policy and Communications Committee

Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairperson Kathy Briseno reported to the Executive Committee that the Policy and Communications Committee met in May and that members of the Committee reviewed additional informational handouts pertaining to the value and practice of service agencies tracking and reporting race and ethnicity data of the individuals they serve. She reported that the Policy and Communications Committee, in concurrence with the Executive Committee, recommend that the Authority begin the collection of the race and ethnicity data of the clients served by CRSA, to commence on July 1, 2015.

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Michele Carmichael seconded that the Authority begin the collection of the race and ethnicity data of the clients served by CRSA, to commence on July 1, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. Executive Committee

Chairperson Seelbach informed the Authority that the Executive Committee discussed several issues at its June meeting that have not been discussed earlier in today's agenda.

Chairperson Seelbach reported that The Executive Committee was informed that CRSA's proposed FY 16 Appropriation of \$592,300 is still uncertain as the Governor has rejected the FY 16 State Budget bills proposed by the legislature and budget deliberations between the Legislature and the Governor continue.

Chairperson Seelbach reported that Director Schornagel consulted with the Executive Committee on issues relevant to the formation of a CRSA Case Review Committee. He asserts that the time is right to form a Case Review Committee to review cases which require organized, multiple-agency review within weeks of case opening rather than within months and which is also less paper intensive. Director Schornagel commented to the Authority on the success in recent years of resolving disputes at the Technical Assistance Conference level noting that the Authority considered convening an Authority Hearing to resolve a dispute only once since FY 10. He also reported that so far in FY 15, four of the five cases (80%) reaching the Technical Assistance Conference level have been resolved by member agencies within 2 to 6 weeks of the Technical Assistance Conferences. He referenced the persistent board requests to expedite the Dispute Resolution Process to accommodate cases involving Custody Relinquishment risks as an example of the need for an expedited review process. Director Schornagel informed the Executive Committee that he will reconvene the Procedural Guidelines Committee soon to propose procedures and timelines for the formation of a Case Review Committee. Chairperson Seelbach commented that the Executive Committee will continue to consult with the Procedural Guidelines Committee on issues related to the formation of a Case Review Committee including: Committee membership, whether the Committee should be a Standing Committee or an Ad Hoc Committee and consideration of possible changes to the CRSA statutes and/or Bylaws to facilitate the formation of a CRSA Case Review Committee.

Chairperson Seelbach reported that Director Schornagel consulted with the Executive Committee on planning to move forward on the recommendation made by the Board at the April 2015 meeting for the Authority explore the hiring of a researcher(s) for the explicit purposes of conducting archival program evaluation research focused on the individual and systemic circumstances that brought children to CRSA for technical assistance and dispute resolution. Director Schornagel commented that the recent proposal to conduct CRSA archival research stemmed directly from ongoing discussion of the Authority regarding Illinois' increasingly frequent dependence on Custody Relinquishment (CR) as a means for parents to acquire mental health services. Bob Bloom asked for clarification on implementation of the Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act and the subsequent mandate for responsible state agencies to devise and implement an Inter-governmental Agreement to reduce or eliminate Custody Relinquishment. Toni Hoy responded that an Inter-governmental Agreement to implement PA: 98-0808 is supposed to be signed and implemented by July 1st but that to her knowledge an agreement has not yet been signed nor implemented. She speculated that perhaps as an N.B. Consent Decree is signed, progress on implementing the Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act may follow. Director Schornagel commented that in the interim CRSA should create its own committee to respond to the CR Risk cases that are seen on CRSA's caseload. Maureen Haugh-Stover commented on the need for a practical definition of Custody Relinquishment Risk. Director Schornagel responded that parents on CRSA's caseload who are seriously contemplating relinquishing custody have typically been coached/advised to do so and that most families are exhausted, have no more resilience or resources and just submit to CR pressures in the system. Toni Hoy

added that families she encounters at risk of Custody Relinquishment are typically fearful for their safety. Director Schornagel commented that CRSA have documented instances where parents become psychiatrically unstable themselves under the stress of being unable to get the services they need for their unstable child. Juliana Harms commented that legal dependency is a means to expedite services to families when there are no other workable community-based models to treat children with complex disabilities. Toni Hoy asserts that DCFS has existing Voluntary Placement Agreement capacity that it can use for up to 180 days to potentially prevent custody relinquishment. Juliana Harms agreed to hold an In-service training at a future CRSA meeting on the Voluntary Placement Agreement. Director Schornagel informed the Authority that CRSA commissioned case research in 2002 by Dr. John Lyons Ph.D. and that he will forward that research to the board electronically for review. He commented that this research may provide a basis for continuing CRSA archival program evaluation research. Director Schornagel informed the Authority that absent a specific research proposal and an approved FY 16 Appropriation, movement on the CRSA archival research is limited only to discussion at this time. Chairperson Seelbach told the Authority that the Executive Committee will bring the issue of CRSA Archival research back to the Board for further discussion when the FY 16 Budget standoff is resolved.

VIII. OPEN DIALOUGE

Dr. Mehlinger commented that the lack of effective, community-based services fuels the need for crisis planning that often results in restrictive residential treatment. She further commented that there is no evidence that residential treatment is effective. She stressed the importance of treating children earlier in community-based service arrays with effective interventions, citing the need for respite care and the use of Mobile Response Teams as examples. She added that the CANs instrument should not be used for children under six years of age. Linda Prewitt commented that the absence of Local Area Networks (LANs) has weakened Illinois' system of care. Director Schornagel agreed, commenting that Illinois missed an opportunity to strengthen its system of care by failing to support and fine tune the LANs as a statewide coordination entity. He added that GOHIT planners had likewise discussed the need for local coordination entities, statewide. Debbi Smith commented on critical key weaknesses in the current system of care: that community mental health providers cannot bill for intensive in-home support services and that Community Mental Health Centers lack the funding and the flexibility needed to deliver effective community-based services that Dr. Mehlinger suggests are crucial to prevent crisis-induced residential treatment. Linda Prewitt commented that another visible weakness in Illinois system of care are that publicly funded mental health centers and other community-based agencies struggle to maintain well trained and experienced staff. Bob Bloom commented that he rarely sees a treatment plan that includes anything other than use of medication and psychotherapy delivered exclusively in office settings. Director Schornagel commented on Illinois' monumental and unsustainable over-reliance on in-patient psychiatric hospitalization as the fall back for a failing community-based system of care. Bob Bloom commented that the Juvenile Corrections has also become a fall back for a failing behavioral health system noting that over a third of the children in the Department of Juvenile Justice are there for non-violent offenses. Dr.

Mehlinger commented that the creation of Choices is intended to begin to reverse these trends.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ruth Giles-Ott introduced herself as a foster parent and an adoptive parent and commented that one of her children has utilized residential treatment. She added that community-based services had been ineffective in meeting the needs of her daughter and the family and that her daughter functions better in a structured treatment setting. Referencing the CRSA dispute resolution case overview, she noted that it is unacceptable that the family has been split into two households, depriving the healthy siblings of the benefits of living in single family household because the system of care cannot meet the behavioral health needs of one multiply-disabled child in the family. She commented that some children will not get well enough to function well in the context of a family setting and that system professionals need to consider the traumatizing impact on the entire family and the siblings when determining the appropriate plan of services for a child with severe behavioral health problems. Toni Hoy supported that perspective noting that when community-based services are ineffective and families ask for help, outsiders are brought into the household often judging the family, causing the families to experience secondary and unnecessary trauma from those systemic events.

X. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Michele Carmichael moved and Kathy Briseno seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:23 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*